
New Hampshire

Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

NH/VT Christmas Tree Growers Donate Trees to US Military

Four hundred thirty Christmas trees were loaded into a trailer by local elementary school students in Bethlehem, NH last week, destined for US military families across the country and around the world. The trees were donated by Christmas tree growers from throughout New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as regional businesses and schools and were part of a nationwide effort called “**Trees for Troops**,” to provide Christmas trees to US military troops and their families.

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation and FedEx - in cooperation with the National Christmas Tree Association - have organized this effort to boost the Christmas spirit for U.S. military men and women. For the second year, Christmas tree growers and retailers are donating real Christmas Trees to be distributed at military bases in the U.S. and overseas. Across the US, more than 11,000 trees have been committed from 27 states. Trees will be sent to 25 military bases, in the US and overseas. Trees will be delivered to 17 countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Qatar.

Nigel Manley, manager of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests Rocks Christmas Tree Farm in Bethlehem, and chairman of the national Christmas Spirit Foundation, coordinated the collection of the trees from the New Hampshire and Vermont region. About 30 fifth grade students from Bethlehem Elementary School came to the Rocks Christmas Tree farm for the early morning event and eagerly helped to load the FedEx tractor trailer with its Christmas cargo. The Bethlehem Elementary students also raised money to purchase more trees for the effort, as did students from Strafford Elementary in Strafford, NH.

Governor John Lynch has issued a proclamation commending the NH/VT Christmas Tree Growers Association for their generous donations and for making this special effort on behalf of US troops and their families.

For more information about “**Trees for Troops**”, visit: www.christmasspiritfoundation.org.

For more information about where to find Christmas Trees for your own holiday celebration, visit www.nh-vtchristmastree.org, or www.nhchristmastree.com. Contact the NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food for more Christmas tree information at 271-3788 or www.agriculture.nh.gov.

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